

1 Amendment to the Claims

2 In the Claims:

3 Please amend Claims 1, 2, and 8 as follows:

4 1. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a blank library of optically distinct  
5 reporter labeled carriers, said method comprising the steps of:

6 (a) providing a plurality of carriers, at least some of which are identical, each carrier  
7 being configured to support a plurality of optically distinct reporters and a plurality of compounds of  
8 interest, none of the plurality of carriers as initially provided having any reporters or compounds of  
9 interest attached thereto;

10 (b) providing a plurality of reaction vessels, such that at least one reaction vessel is  
11 available for each unique member of the blank library to be constructed;

12 (c) providing a plurality of optically distinct reporters, such that at least some of the  
13 plurality of optically distinct reporters are different from each other;

14 (d) in each reaction vessel, apportioning at least one carrier, such that any reaction vessels  
15 vessel that includes more than one carrier will include only identical carriers;

16 (e) in each reaction vessel, apportioning at least one optically distinct reporter, such that a  
17 unique combination of the at least one carrier and the at least one optically distinct reporter is  
18 achieved in each reaction vessel, and such that the optically distinct reporters in each vessel enable  
19 each carrier in that vessel to be distinguished from carrier and reporter combinations in other vessels;

20 and

21 (f) attaching said at least one optically distinct reporter to said at least one carrier in each  
22 reaction vessel, such that each carrier in the same reaction vessel will have an identical set of  
23 optically distinct reporters attached to it, each reaction vessel including a set of optically distinct  
24 reporter labeled carriers that is uniquely different from the optically distinct reporter labeled carriers  
25 of each other reaction vessel, the plurality of reaction vessels thereby defining a blank library of  
26 optically distinct reporter labeled carriers, such that compounds of interest can later be attached to the  
27 optically distinct reporter labeled carriers of the blank library.

28 2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one reaction vessel  
29 contains a carrier that is optically distinct from others of said plurality of carriers in other ~~reactions~~  
30 reaction vessels, and wherein no reaction vessel contains a mixture of optically distinct carriers.

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